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RETAIL PRICES AND BASIC WAGE RATES - SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1962

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly for each capital city separately the variations in prices of commodities and services as affecting a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households. Commodities and services included in the index are food, clothing, drapery, home ownership, rent of privately owned and government owned houses, fuel, light, household appliances and supplies, fares, motoring, tobacco, cigarettes, beer, cinema, radio and television licenses, newspapers, postal and telephone services, hairdressing, dry cleaning, and various other items.

The various commodities and services have been combined into groups, and group indexes are available for Food, Clothing and Drapery, Housing, Household Supplies and Equipment, and Miscellaneous.

The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city. The base of the index for each capital city and for the weighted average, six capitals, is year 1952-53 = 100.0. Group indexes also have separate bases for each group.

The Consumer Price Index for Brisbane rose from 127.3 in June quarter to 127.5 in September quarter, 1962, an increase of 0.2 per cent. compared with a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the previous quarter. The increase over the quarter ended September, 1961, was 0.4 per cent.

Although the All Groups index showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. during the quarter, there was an 0.1 per cent. decrease in the Food Group index from 129.4 in June quarter to 129.3 in September quarter. Higher prices for potatoes, bacon, pork, and lamb were more than offset by price decreases for eggs, mutton, onions, and beef.

The Clothing and Drapery Group index increased by 0.1 per cent. from 116.8 to 116.9 during the quarter. Small increases in items of men's and women's clothing, and footwear items, were responsible for the increase.

There was a rise of 0.9 per cent. in the Housing Group index during the quarter. The index rose from 141.9 in June quarter to 143.2 in September quarter and this increase was attributable to higher rates and rentals of both government and privately owned houses.

The Household Supplies and Equipment Group index increased from 113.0 to 113.1 during the quarter, a rise of 0.1 per cent. Small increases in each of a number of household items was the cause of the rise in this Group.

The Miscellaneous Group index number of 134.3 remained unaltered during the quarter.

In September quarter the Consumer Price Index rose slightly in all capital cities with the exception of Adelaide where it remained unaltered. Percentage variations from June quarter were as follows:- Sydney, +0.3; Melbourne, Brisbane, and Perth, +0.2; and Hobart, +0.1. The weighted average for the six capital cities showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. from June to September quarters.

Since the base year, 1952-53, the rise in the retail price level has been greatest in Hobart and Brisbane while the smallest increase has occurred in Adelaide. Percentage increases from 1952-53 to September quarter, 1962, are as follows:- Hobart, 27.6; Brisbane, 27.5; Melbourne, 26.2; Sydney, 22.7; Perth, 22.1; and Adelaide 21.9, while the weighted average for the six capitals is 24.3 per cent. (It should be noted that these figures merely indicate rates of price rise in the separate cities, and do not represent in any way the relative absolute price levels in the different cities.)



COMMONWEALTH AND STATE BASIC WAGE RATES

Commonwealth and State basic wage rates are reviewed by the appropriate Industrial Authorities from time to time - in some cases at fairly regular intervals and in others as a result of special applications for variation of the wage rate. The last variation made by the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission was an addition of 12s. to the male basic wage, with corresponding adjustments to the female and juvenile rates, and operated from 7th July, 1961.

The Queensland Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1961 abolished automatic quarterly reviews of the State basic wage, but the Industrial Commission was empowered to vary the wage after a general hearing on the applications of interested parties. The last variation to the basic wage made by the Commission was an increase of 4s. for males and 3s. for females operative from 29th May, 1961. Two applications from employees' organisations seeking an increase in the basic wage have been lodged with the Commission. One, for which a hearing has not yet been requested, seeks a variation consequent upon changes in the Consumer Price Index since the current rates were fixed; the other seeks a general review of the basic wage and has been set down for hearing on 26th November, 1962.

Current Commonwealth and State basic wage rates are shown in the following table.

Basic Wage Rates - Australian Capital Cities

Capital City	Commonwealth Basic Wage			State Basic Wage		
	Males	Females	Date of Operation <sup>a</sup>	Males	Females	Date of Operation
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Brisbane .. ..	13 10 0	10 2 6	7.7.61	14 4 0	10 13 0	29. 5.61
Sydney .. ..	14 15 0	11 1 0	7.7.61	15 0 0	11 5 0	1.11.62a
Melbourne .. ..	14 7 0	10 15 0	7.7.61	14 7 0	10 15 0	July, 61b
Adelaide .. ..	14 3 0	10 12 0	7.7.61	14 3 0	10 12 0	10. 7.61a
Perth .. ..	14 8 0	10 16 0	7.7.61	14 18 9	11 4 1	30.10.61
Hobart .. ..	14 14 0	11 0 6	7.7.61	14 14 0	11 0 6	July, 61b

a From the first pay period commencing on or after the date shown.

b Most Wages Boards adopted the Commonwealth rate during July, 1961.

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7th November, 1962

Consumer Price Index - Total and Group Indexes - Brisbane  
(Year 1952-53 = 100.0)

Period	Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscell- aneous	All Groups
Year -						
1952-53 .. ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1953-54 .. ..	103.4	100.9	101.6	101.7	101.7	102.0
1954-55 .. ..	104.1	101.3	104.7	102.5	102.0	102.9
1955-56 .. ..	107.7	102.2	110.5	102.6	108.0	106.3
1956-57 .. ..	111.5	104.7	118.4	106.5	118.9	112.0
1957-58 .. ..	113.0	107.8	123.9	108.3	120.5	114.4
1958-59 .. ..	119.8	109.4	128.4	109.0	123.6	118.2
1959-60 .. ..	124.2	111.9	132.6	110.6	125.6	121.2
1960-61 .. ..	130.4	115.1	137.6	111.3	129.5	125.4
1961-62 .. ..	130.8	116.7	140.5	113.0	133.3	127.3
Quarter -						
1961 - September ..	132.5	116.3	139.7	113.0	130.7	127.0
December ..	129.7	116.7	140.2	112.9	134.0	127.1
1962 - March ..	131.4	116.8	140.3	113.2	134.3	127.7
June ..	129.4	116.8	141.9	113.0	134.3	127.3
September ..	129.3	116.9	143.2	113.1	134.3	127.5
Percentage Increase or Decrease (-) on Previous Quarter						
Quarter -						
1961 - September ..	1.5	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.7
December ..	-2.1	0.3	0.4	-0.1	2.5	0.1
1962 - March ..	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.5
June ..	-1.5	-	1.1	-0.2	-	-0.3
September ..	-0.1	0.1	0.9	0.1	-	0.2

Consumer Price Index - Capital Cities  
(Year 1952-53 = 100.0 for Each City and for Six Capitals)

As the base for each city is 100.0, the indexes in the table below do not indicate relative price levels as between cities, but they may be used to compare relative price movements in the various cities.

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted Average, Six Capitals
Year -							
1952-53 ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1953-54 ..	101.6	102.0	102.0	102.3	103.0	105.0	102.0
1954-55 ..	102.3	102.0	102.9	103.5	105.2	104.9	102.6
1955-56 ..	105.7	108.1	106.3	106.9	107.9	110.2	106.9
1956-57 ..	112.9	114.0	112.0	111.1	112.9	116.9	113.1
1957-58 ..	114.5	114.4	114.4	111.9	113.6	117.0	114.2
1958-59 ..	115.3	116.6	118.2	114.5	114.7	118.7	116.0
1959-60 ..	117.8	120.0	121.2	118.0	116.9	120.8	118.9
1960-61 ..	122.1	125.9	125.4	122.9	121.2	127.5	123.8
1961-62 ..	122.6	126.3	127.3	122.5	121.6	128.1	124.3
Quarter -							
1961 - September	123.1	126.8	127.0	123.5	121.7	129.1	124.8
December	122.5	126.5	127.1	122.5	121.3	128.3	124.3
1962 - March	122.4	125.9	127.7	122.1	121.5	127.5	124.1
June ..	122.3	125.9	127.3	121.9	121.8	127.5	124.0
September	122.7	126.2	127.5	121.9	122.1	127.6	124.3